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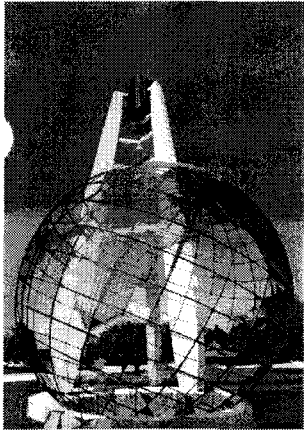
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GSUniverse

Governors State University's Weekly Newsletter

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"Example is the school of mankind, and they will learn at no other."

Edmund Burke

Seeing the Budget Through a Glass Darkly

University presidents and their budget directors, IBHE directors and staff, and state budget officials met April 14 to clarify questions concerning the higher education budget for FY04. John Filan, director of the budget office, told the group that the rescission for FY03 would be reduced to 2.7 percent from 2.9 percent. "At the margin, that gives us a very small bit of breathing room," said Jeff Slovak, associate director of budget and planning. "And it appears that our program to inform the budget office had some effect. Their original proposal was for an 8 percent rescission."

Filan then reaffirmed that the reduction in appropriations for higher education in FY04 would be 8.2 percent, which in Governors State's case amounts to \$2.2 million. He said the governor would also require that the public universities reserve 8.1 percent of their income funds in anticipation of caps on tuition increases – \$961,000 in Governors State's case. As a result, the university's operating budget of FY04 will be approximately the same as it was for FY2000.

Filan was unclear on the governor's proposal to cap tuition increases at five percent. Legislators have also introduced tuition cap proposals. Most university presidents favor Rep. Kevin Joyce's proposal to maintain tuition at the same level for four years for each incoming freshman class. That proposal does not set a specific limit on tuition increases. It would not take effect until FY05 and would have less impact on GSU than other institutions.

A bill mandating line item appropriations rather than the current lump sum appropriation is also likely to pass. Filan said the governor supports legislation along these lines. GSU supports legislation introduced by Representative Kurt Granberg, rather than the much more restrictive bill introduced by Senator Miguel del Valle.

Observers say proposals to give the state control over public universities' income funds (made up primarily of tuition income), something the governor supports, are not likely to pass this session, although no one can be sure, since it has his strong support.

President Stuart Fagan said, "We know what we have to do – cut expenditures and raise revenues. We have some hard decisions to make. But even as we make our cuts, we'll continue to put financial resources into academic programs that are key to our mission and demonstrate the potential for growth."

Now that the Governor Has Spoken the Legislature Has its Say

President Fagan is scheduled to testify at a Senate hearing April 24, and will testify before the Illinois State House Appropriations Committee again on May 5. "We'll tell the committee how we'll meet the eight percent cut in the appropriated budget," said President Fagan, "and we'll give our position on the other open issues, including state control of the income fund and the line item appropriation."

Graduate Council Holds First Meeting

Faculty Associate for Graduate Studies and Research Deborah Holdstein chaired the inaugural meeting of the Graduate Council April 15. Holdstein opened the meeting with the mandate that the council begin to define its vision and function relative to graduate studies, an important first step toward fleshing out a basic operating structure that Holdstein defined as “parallel lines that achieve specific improvements to quality while supporting and improving practical, day-to-day functions,” meaning, essentially, that the Council will address specific graduate studies related items that come to its attention while developing overarching procedures and a vision for graduate studies at GSU.

The Council is made up of representatives from all colleges and includes deans, faculty, staff, library, and administration. An alumnus also sits on the Council.

Mari Ellen Leverence, representing the University Library, spoke to the council about the movement toward more centralized and increasing support for grant writing, referencing recent efforts to analyze the federal budget for grant opportunities and web resources and support for grant writing from the library.

Larry Polselli, executive director of admission and student recruitment, updated the council on the new graduate application fee of \$25. The fee, approved by the Board of Trustees, goes into effect July 1, but remains on a par with the lowest graduation application fees among state universities. Discussed in conjunction with the application fee, however, was the need to balance fees against accessibility and the university’s strategic plan.

Holdstein said that Dr. Roger Bennett, interim dean of the College of Education, will chair a subcommittee that will look into the necessity and feasibility of establishing doctoral level programs at GSU.

Alumni Phonathon Update

Volunteers working the phones for the Alumni Phonathon during the first two weeks of March gained more than \$75,000 dollars in pledges. Colleges competed during the event to see which would garner the greater number of pledge dollars. College of Education won with \$8,970. College of Health Professions came in second with \$8,955, and CELCS and Board of Governors came in third with \$7,590. Kyusuk Chung and Jill Stanley tied for first place as individual callers, each receiving \$2,685 in pledges.

Money pledged will be used by the GSU Association for student scholarships, faculty development, library enhancements, and the employee of the month and year programs.

ScholarShip Sails On

Drs. Christopher Anne Easley and John W. Swain have co-authored and published “Niccolo Machiavelli: Moving Through the Future as We Learn from the Past.” The article appears in the *International Journal of Organization Theory and Behavior* (Vol. 6, No. 1, 2003) and explores issues raised by postmodern organizational theorists in juxtaposition to Machiavellian thought.

BOG Spot Airs April 21

The Platinum Group segment featuring GSU’s Board of Governors Program will air on the ABC Family Channel for the first time April 21, at 5:30 p.m. The segment will be broadcast in 25 markets nationwide, from New York to San Diego. The segment features, among others, Yolanda McMillan, who graduates from the BOG this trimester. McMillan has also been selected as a student speaker for the 2003 commencement.

River to River I: GSU's Iron Men and Women

The GSU Roads Scholars placed second in the Corporate Handicapped Division at the 2003 River to River Relay Run. The 80 mile race attracted 250 teams from throughout the Midwest and took place between the Mississippi and Ohio rivers over some of Illinois' most rugged roads. Organized by team captain Addison Woodward, the team included Jon Carlson, Karen (Curtis) Cox, Karen D'Arcy, Arthur "G.Q." Durant, Brad Johnson, Mark Kundla, Andrea and David Prasse, and Bill Wilkenson.

River to River II: GSU's Softer Metal

GSU's humble Public Affairs correspondent was also at River to River, on a non-academic team called the Bite Our Butts, and raced furiously with his team to secure a finish several places after last. Said the fellow, "Those first eighty miles were a bitch."
